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On The Prowl With Triple Deuce part II

Story by Spc. Timothy S. Melzow
211th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment
and Photos by
Terry Boyd of Stars and Stripes

On day 5, after re-supplying the soldiers with much needed food and water, Sergeant Major Camacho gathered another team together to get a closer look at the village up on the mountain. The company went back up the mountain clearing every house, and after that, they walked another 5 kilometers through the valley below. Alpha Company was seeking out enemy forces that the villagers said had come through this area several days before. They made no contact, so the unit headed back to the patrol base. Alpha Company returned to the patrol base shortly before sunset, exhausted and hungry, because they had taken only water with them to the mountain. After the grueling 12 kilometer walk in the mountains, many of the soldiers were ready to bed down for the night. Even though they were extremely tired, they knew they still had to pull guard duty. PFC Ward made his rounds, concerned about soldiers who had prickly heat, a condition caused by wearing their heavy gear for extended periods of time.

"These guys are sweating during the day, and shivering at night and that doesn't help anyone," said Ward. $___$ See 2-22 pg. 9

3-6 Gives Medical Supplies to Hospital

Story by Spc. Timothy S. Melzow 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment and Photos by Terry Boyd of Stars and Stripes

KNDAHAR, AF-GHANISTAN—AU.S. Army convoy came rolling through Kandahar City on February 28th, but not for a patrol, instead they had different purpose altogether. The 3rd of the 6th Field Artillery Battalion (3-

^{6th}) from Fort Drum, NY was in charge of this movement. Two brightly colored, jingle trucks were in full sight of all the residents of Kandahar Air Field (KAF), as the jingle trucks were loaded down with medical supplies, earmarked for the Mir Wais Hospital in Kandahar City.

Mir Wais Hospital serves Kandahar Province and 3 other surrounding provinces:



Zabul, Helmand, and Uruzgan Provinces. All Afghanis in need of medical attention

come to Mir Wais in hopes of treat—See 3-6 pg. 3



3 presumed dead in Maryland boat accident

BALTIMORE, Maryland (CNN) — Recovery teams worked Sunday to locate three people presumed to have been killed in a water-taxi tragedy in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Witnesses blamed Saturday's boat capsizing on sudden high winds.

Quick work by reservists from a Naval Reserve Center helped rescue 22 people after the boat overturned Saturday about 4:15 p.m. One of the rescued victims later died.

Eleven people remained hospitalized, said Baltimore Fire Chief William Goodwin, two of them in critical condition.

Divers were searching the cold waters of Chesapeake Bay for the missing people, who are presumed dead, the chief said. Ellen Engleman-Conners, chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said Sunday's focus would be to interview witnesses and passengers.

"We'll be putting together the full NTSB safety investigation that we always do," she said, including reviewing the vessel's records, the training of the crew and the

safety record of the operator.

"A pontoon boat is a very stable vessel," she said, "Wind conditions would clearly be an issue."

But she cautioned that an accident is rarely "a single event."

"There's usually a series of events," Engleman-Conners said. "There is never a simple accident."

She said the boat was still overturned, and investigators were waiting for high tide to upright the grounded boat. She said it has sustained some damage, which could have occurred with the grounding.

Goodwin said the storm that blew over Baltimore's Inner Harbor Saturday afternoon was unusual.

"It seems to be somewhat of an anomaly ... that no one took notice of until after the accident," he said. "There was a brief warning and then some sort of cell passed over the harbor from the northwest, winds 50 mph and then it passed over. As quick as it came it was over." The 36-foot Seaport Taxi pontoon boat,

operated by a division of Living Class-

— See **BOAT** pg. 10

The overturned water taxi is towed to shore Saturday evening.



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Kandahar Fire Department Tip of the Week

Open fires (e.g., bon fires, camp fires, controlled burning) are not permitted unless approved by the 451 AEG/CEF Base Fire Chief. Approved open fires will be located no closer than 50 feet from any structure and constantly attended by a competent person until they are totally extinguished. Fire extinguishers, garden hoses, buckets of water, or fire trucks must be available at the burn site.

In case of fire or emergency, contact the KAF fire department hotline at 841–1225







- 3-6 from pg. 1

ment. Sometimes the hospital has turned away patients due to lack of medicine and proper treatment facilities. With little to offer in the way of modern medicine, the hospital looked as if the floors have never seen a mop. Filth and excrement litters the corner of several rooms in the hospital, and windows are open to allow a draft in, to make up for the non-existent air-conditioning. Flies fester and stream in a never-ending dance of chaos around the windows and in the faces of patients in the hospital.

Capt. Brad Frey a Physician's Assistant for 3-6th Field Artillery from Winterset, Iowa, has been working with the 2nd of the 22nd Infantry's (Triple Deuce) physician's assistant, 1st Lt. John Stubblefield in their assessment of Mir Wais Hospital. Triple Deuce was over the hospital at first, and then 3-6th took over what Triple Deuce started. Since then, \$50,000 worth of medical supplies has been approved for the hospital to help everyone there. Frey was there to help deliver the first of 4 supply drops to the hospital. He explains that the hospital has a long way to go before it can handle and treat everyone that comes for medical attention.

"The situation here [at Mir Wais hospital] is like putting a band-aid on an arterial bleed," said Frey.

Frey is confident that these medical supplies will alleviate some of the medical shortages that have been plaguing the hospital. According to Frey the intravenous (IV) solutions, bags, and tubes will last the hospital about 6 months. Other supplies such as complex B vitamins and penicillin should last over a month at the hospital.

When Frey first arrived, he saw what few accommodations the emergency room had to offer.

"I was shocked to see what little they had, the ER had only 6 beds, 1 IV bottle, and a trash can. I was taken by surprise to see that there was zero sanitation, there was dirt and filth everywhere!" said Frey.

The medical supplies given to Mir Wais Hospital; is but a mere drop in the bucket of the things to come. The hospital at KAF treats Afghan Militia Forces (AMF) and other Coalition members. One of the primary tasks of the hospital at KAF is to treat Coalition and AMF soldiers, and depending on the nature of the in-

jury, innocent civilian casualties of war can be treated there aswell. Frey makes it clear that the hospital here isn't attempting out do Mir Wias.

"We are not trying to undermind Mir Wais. Sometimes we'll get a call from the gate, and Charlie Med will evaluate the victim, and if they were injured by the coalition we'll help them, and if they weren't injured by the coalition, we'll recommend them to go to Mir Wais." Said Frev.

Triple Deuce and the 3-6th Field Artillery are working with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the World Food Program in a push to improve upon the hospital's treatment facility.

With the first of the 4 medical supply drops completed, and over 10 more pallets of medical supplies on the way to Mir Wais like catheters, syringes, bandages, medications, and other supplies. The doctors and patients at the hospital are optimistically looking to what the future has in store.

Frey and the rest of the 3-6th Field Artillery left the hospital knowing that these supplies will help those who need it the most.

U.S. snipers kill 9 suspected Taliban in Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. special-operations snipers killed nine suspected Taliban militants in the Afghan mountains bordering Pakistan, the military said Saturday, marking one of American forces' deadliest engagement in months.

The military would not say if the clash marked the start of a promised spring offensive to capture Osama bin Laden, though a spokesman said the fighting began when as many as 40 suspected Taliban tried to flank the position held by the Americans and their Afghan army allies.

Over the past two weeks, U.S. commanders have pledged what they call a hammer-and-anvil approach for the spring thaw into summer, with the crucial support of Pakistani troops on their own side of the border.

Under that plan, the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region where terror suspects are thought to be hiding becomes the anvil against which terror suspects would be hammered, the military said.

With bin Laden and other top al-Qaida and Taliban fugitives the subject of redoubled U.S. attention, the world's news crews have launched a spring offensive of their own. U.S. news organizations are rapidly boosting staff in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

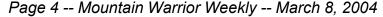
But after touting the planned offensive, the U.S. military now appears bent on tamping down expectations.

"I don't have any other information about Osama bin Laden," military spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty said at a news conference Saturday at the U.S. base in Kabul. "If I knew where he was, I would go get him."

Hilferty did not specifically answer a question about whether the latest operations were the start of the promised spring offensive, reminding reporters that there had been patrols throughout the winter as well.

The Friday operation in which the Taliban fighters were killed involved a roughly 10-man U.S. special operations group,

Hilferty said. It occurred near Orgun, 20 miles from the Pakistan border. No U.S. soldiers or their Afghan allies were injured or killed.





Olympics rekindle call for Britain to return Parthenon statues

By REBECCA GOLDSMITH

LONDON — When a British ambassador pried some 70 tons of sculpture from the walls of the Parthenon in the early 1800s to decorate his Scottish estate. Athens was a remote outpost of the Ottoman Empire. Greece did not exist as an independent country. And ancient treasures around the world belonged to anyone important and rich enough to cart them away. Now, with the approach of this summer's Olympics in Athens, some advocates for the return of the sculptures hope they can attain through public opinion what they couldn't through international law. The ambassador's marble souvenirs known in England as the "Elgin marbles" after Thomas Bruce, the seventh Earl of Elgin — lie at the heart of one of the world's oldest and most famous cases of misplaced art. The 2,500-year-old Parthenon pieces, purchased by the British government from Lord Elgin in 1816, sit on display at the British Museum.

For decades, heads of state, politicians and celebrities have lobbied the British government and the museum to return the sculptures to Greece. The dispute is a sore point in Greek-British relations.

The London group Marbles Reunited has launched a flashy campaign to reignite the historic debate. The cause has attracted some big names, including former British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, 13 Olympic medalists and actresses Emma Thompson, Dame Judi Dench and Vanessa Redgrave. Proponents of the return suggested Great Britain should consider repatriation if London is serious about its bid to host the 2012 Olympics.

"You only get the Olympics if you've got friends around the world, and Britain, to be honest, doesn't have too many friends around the world at the moment," said Peter Chegwyn, the group's campaign director.

The marbles spark rich debate among cultural property scholars. John Henry Merryman, a Stanford Law School profes-

sor who published a book about the case, argues against applying current principles retroactively.

"Greece was a quiet, dusty corner of the Ottoman Empire ruled from

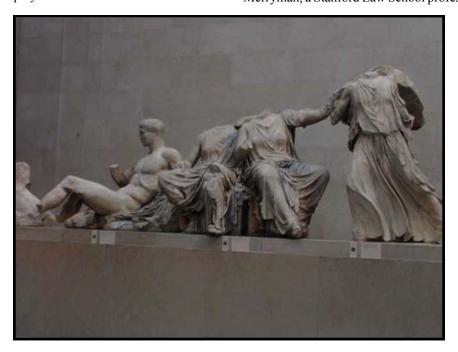
Constantinople. The sultan was the ruler of public property. The Parthenon was the sultan's property," he said.

"If the law were then the way it is today, then what was done then would be illegal. But that's not the case. If they say, 'We should reapply today's standards,' that's an argument that legally doesn't have a lot of force."

But David Rudenstine, dean of Cardozo law school in New York City, researched the subject in the 1990s, and said he found Merryman and previous scholars overlooked crucial details. Rudenstine said the British Parliament tampered with evidence in preparing an 1816 report to make Elgin's acquisition look more authentic and legitimate.

"They committed fraud," Rudenstine said. In a break from previous strategies, Marbles Reunited set aside historic arguments over ownership, conceding that they would never win a legal case. They focused instead on arranging a "long-term loan" to Greece.

"Whether Elgin acquired them legally or not, the British government purchased them legally from him. (Before 1970) if you bought something in good faith from someone who had stolen it, it would be very difficult to get it back," said Freddie New, a British advocate for restitution. The group's proposal would put the sculptures on display indefinitely at the new Acropolis Museum, which is under construction near the Parthenon. The British Museum remains staunchly opposed to relinquishing control of the sculptures.







Al Qaeda top deputy's brother held

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt acknowledged for the first time Thursday that it has in its prisons Mohammed al-Zawahri — the brother of al-Qaeda's No. 2 man — who was sentenced to death in absentia in 1999 and allegedly once led the military wing of Egypt's Jihad group.

Al-Zawahri has been thought to be in Egyptian police custody for at least three years, but the Egyptian government never acknowledged it. He was sentenced to death in absentia for his role in Jihad attacks inside Egypt.

His older brother, Ayman al-Zawahri, is the top aide to al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and once led Jihad. In the same military trial, he also was sentenced to death in absentia for Jihad acts.

"Mohammed al-Zawahri, brother of Ayman al-Zawahri, is alive and in one of the Egyptian prisons, and he will stand trial soon," Interior Minister Habib el-Adly told reporters Thursday. He did not say when he would stand trial, how long he'd been in custody or who handed him over to Egypt.

Under Egypt's emergency laws, a suspect can be detained without charges or trial indefinitely. However, Egyptian law doesn't provide for a new trial for a suspect who has been convicted in absentia in a military court and returns to the country. It only permits clemency pleas to the President. El-

Adly didn't explain how a retrial would happen.

It wasn't immediately clear why the government was acknowledging his detention now, though there have been Arab newspaper reports lately speculating that he was dead in police custody and that American intelligence officials were interested in getting hold of his remains for DNA sampling.

Those reports came as speculation was high that U.S. authorities had captured or killed bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri. U.S. military officials have denied capturing bin Laden and have said nothing about netting his deputy.

Montasser el-Zayat, a prominent Egyptian attorney who defends many Islamic militants, said Mohammed al-Zawahri is not known to have any ties to al-Qaeda, though he had been a Jihad member for years and had spent time in Afghanistan in 1992-94 and returned in 1996. It wasn't clear when he left the last time.

His last known whereabouts, el-Zayat said, was the United Arab Emirates in 2001.

El-Zayat acted as Mohammed al-Zawahri's attorney for the 1999 trial, but did not expect to represent him in the upcoming trial. Al-Zawahri is an engineer by profession. El-Zayat said he was not a warrior, but was in Afghanistan working with a Saudibased Islamic relief agency, The International Committee for Islamic Relief.



Mohammad al-Zawahri, left, was shown on Al-Jazeera television with al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden







Round 1 goes to Yankees

HOWARD ULMAN / Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — The A-Rod circus rolled into town, thrilling fans and leaving the Boston Red Sox with still another loss to the New York Yankees.

A sign-waving, sellout crowd watched the Yankees win 11-7 on Sunday, 4 months after they beat the Red Sox in their last meeting in Game 7 of the AL championship series.

Commemorative pins for the game sold for \$5.67, one spectator wore a shirt that said, "I don't brake for Yankee fans," and lines outside the ballpark were long hours before gametime.

Alex Rodriguez had little impact on the much hyped spring training game - a groundout and an infield single against the team he nearly joined in December.

"They're fun. They're easy to get up for," Rodriguez said of games between the rivals. "We look forward to an unbelievable summer."

Nomar Garciaparra had no impact on the game at all, diminishing the drama by skipping the game with a minor injury to his right Achilles' tendon that should sideline him for one more day.

"There's no need for me to play," said Garciaparra, who would have been traded had Boston obtained Rodriguez. "It's spring training."

Asked if he might be ducking the confrontation with Rodriguez, traded by Texas last month, he laughed and said, "It's not

even worth a comment."

His replacement, Pokey Reese, did fine with a homer

and excellent defense.

"This is the best rivalry in sports," Reese said. "It doesn't get any bigger than this." Shortstop Derek Jeter hit one of New York's four homers but made a throwing error on Boston's first batter, Gabe Kapler, that led to three unearned runs in a four-run first.

The Red Sox blew that comfortable lead just as they had done last Oct. 16 in Game 7 when they squandered a 5-2 lead in the eighth and lost 6-5 on Aaron Boone's solo homer in the 11th.

On Sunday, the Red Sox gave up a 4-0 lead as the Yankees hit four homers - two by former Boston first baseman Tony Clark and one each by Jeter and Ruben Sierra. Clark and Miguel Cairo each had three hits for New York.

After Bronson Arroyo shut out the Yankees for three innings, they reached Jason Shiell for six runs in the fourth then tagged former Yankee Ed Yarnall for four more in the sixth, making it 10-5.

"The fans were into it, but in spring training you don't have everyone playing," Jeter said. "I really don't think it was that intense. It brought a lot of media here, but players-wise, it's still spring training."

The Red Sox had to reject about 20 requests for media credentials. At least the usual large Japanese contingent didn't make the trip from the Yankees camp in Tampa, two hours to the north, since Hideki Matsui didn't travel for the game.

Mariano Rivera, who pitched a perfect third inning, got the win just as he did in Game 7 when he finished with three shutout innings. But Jose Contreras, another player signed by the Yankees who was courted by the Red Sox, allowed four runs on five hits in two innings.

"He struggled a lot with his control and a team that hits the fastball as well as the Red Sox, you just don't get away with it," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

But Boston president Larry Lucchino, who stoked the rivalry's fires last season by calling the Yankees "the Evil Empire," had some kind words about Contreras.

"He'll be fine," Lucchino said.

Arroyo made quick work of the Yankees in the first when Kenny Lofton popped to second, Jeter lined to shortstop and Rodriguez grounded to shortstop on the first pitch.

"He had to get that first swing off his back, I'm sure," Boston catcher Jason Varitek said. "He was a little more aggressive than he usually is."

Fans booed loudly when Rodriguez came to the plate in the first inning.

But for Arroyo and the rest of the players, it was just another chance to prepare for the regular season.

"The way it ended last year, obviously there was a little more excitement in the air," he said. "But to me it's just getting your work in."







Afridi gets a recall for one-day series against India

BY RIZWAN ALI Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)— Hard-hitting opening batsman Shahid Afridi was recalled to the Pakistan cricket team after an absence of more than a year Friday for this month's limited overs series against archrival India.

The Indian cricket team arrives in Lahore on March 10 for its first full fledged tour in almost 14 years.

Afridi was dumped from the Pakistan squad after failing in last year's World Cup in South Africa. However, chairman of selectors Wasim Bari defended Afridi's inclusion in the 16-man squad announced for the first two one-day internationals on March 13 at Karachi and on March 16 at Rawalpindi.

"He (Afridi) is a utility player in limited overs cricket," Bari said in a statement. "Not only can he bat and bowl, he is a very fine fielder."

Experienced off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq also forced his way back into the team, but he is unlikely to displace Afridi or all-rounder Shoaib Malik in the playing XI.

"The team has been selected in consultation with both coach (Javed Miandad) and captain (Inzamamul ul Haq). I think it is a well balanced in all departments," Bari said.

Speedster Shoaib Akhtar will lead Pakistan in the bowling department with Mohammad Sami and Shabbir Ahmed, while the batting revolves around experienced Inzamam, Yousuf Youhana, Younis Khan, Abdul Razzaq and Yasir Hameed. The selectors also announced a Pakistan A squad which will take on India in a warm-up one-day game in Lahore. Lefthanded test opener Taufeeq Umer will lead

the side.

The Pakistan team for the remaining three one-day internationals - at Peshawar (March 19) and Lahore (March 21 and 24) will be named after the second one-day international. The three-test matches will be played at Multan (March 28 to April 1), Lahore (April 5 to 9) and Rawalpindi (April 13 to April 17).

Pakistan squad: Imran Farhat, Yasir Hameed, Yousuf Youhana, Inzamam-ul-Haq (captain), Shahid Afridi, Misbah-ulHaq, Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Malik, Moin Khan (wicketkeeper), Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Younis Khan, Shabbir Ahmed, Rao Iftikhar Anjum, Rana Naveed-ul-Hasan, Saqlain Mushtaq.

Pakistan 'A' Squad: Imran Nazir, Taufeeq Umar, Faisal Iqbal, Bazid Khan, Naumanullah, Kamran Akmal (wicketkeeper), Yasir Arafat, Junaid Zia, Umar Gul, Zahid Saeed, Mohammad Khaleel, Ashar Zaidi and Qaiser Abbas.

Hill's comeback may be in jeopardy

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Grant Hill's hope of making a comeback this season may be in jeopardy.

Hill's ankle has been surgically repaired four times in the last four years, limiting him to 47 games since signing with the Orlando Magic in 2000. He underwent tests at Duke University over the weekend, and a red flag was raised during the examinations.

"After the last doctor's visit, he has thought about slowing up a little bit," Magic general manager John Gabriel said Sunday following Orlando's 107-90 loss to the Sacramento Kings.

Gabriel refused to say anything definitive on whether Hill would play this season, as the six-time All Star wants. Gabriel added there would be a Monday meeting between Hill, himself and the team's medical staff to determine the best course of action.

Before the game, Hill said the examinations went well - for the most part.

"Everything looked great. The bone looked great," said Hill, who last played Jan. 16, 2003. "I took a strength test and it was good but not perfect."

Hill suffered a stress fracture while playing for the Detroit Pistons in the 2000 playoffs. The last surgery, performed in March 2003, was the most comprehensive - doctors broke a bone in his heel to better align the ankle.

Hill's absence is crippling the Magic.

The team has yet to put together a solid supporting cast for guard Tracy McGrady, who signed at the same time as Hill. Also, Hill's contract - \$93 million for seven years - severely handicaps the team in signing players.





Monks Go Fishing

About once a month, the owners of the Marina del Rey (Calif.) Sportfishing bait shop reap a windfall. According to a January Los Angeles Times story, a Tibetan Buddhist study group drops by in a caravan after meditating on the "liberation of beings" and plunks down \$1,000 to \$2,000 to buy as much live bait as they can, after which they go to Marina del Rey Harbor and, in their terms, free the bait (whereupon, of course, much of it is immediately eaten by fish, anyway). [Los Angeles Times, 1-18-04]

Cigarettes Aren't for Everyone

On Jan. 16, as bonfires burned across Italy to commemorate the annual festival of St. Anthony, the town of Capena continued its yearly addition to the celebration: a day of smoking cigarettes. Residents, including children as young as 6, light up throughout the day in the town's bonfire. Italy's recent anti-smoking drive notwithstanding, many Capena parents encouraged the kids (honoring a centuries-old tradition that originated with smoking dried rosemary), pointing out that it was just one day a year, but Italian health professionals believe many kids will develop the habit nonetheless. [BBC News, 1-21-04

One Shot 2 Kills

Former Detroit police officer Adela Garcia, who retired in 1997 and who now owns the Adela's Place bar, was forced to shoot at two men in her parking lot late at night in order to stop them from allegedly assaulting customers. She fired one shot, which passed through both men, killing them. That was one shot more than she had ever fired on the street in 20 years as a police officer, even though she had several dangerous assignments. [Detroit Free Press, 12-16-03]

The Laws of Irony Are Strictly Enforced

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development, whose mission is to help unemployed Indianans (including those who have lost jobs because their work was contracted overseas), awarded a \$15.2 million computer services contract to Tata American International Corp., to hire 65 programmers to work on the agency's information software starting in November. Two weeks later, state officials canceled the contract after realizing that Tata is a subsidiary of a Bangalore, India, company and that the 65 programmers were being brought in from India. [Computerworld, 12-1-03]

The Fruit of Homer's Labor

Art Comes to Life: In a 1999 episode of TV's "The Simpsons," Homer became a temporary multibillionaire by accidentally inventing a "tomacco" plant that sprouted tobacco-bred tomatoes that were hopelessly addictive from even a single bite. Inspired (and hoping to draw attention to the show's anti-smoking message), Rob Baur of Lake Oswego, Ore., tried to grow such a plant and has somewhat succeeded, although a forensic researcher believes that only the plant itself, and not the fruit, contains nicotine. In February, he announced that he would auction off the golf-ball-sized fruit. [New York Post, 2-7-04; Wired, 11-7-03



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On the sixth day of Operation Mountain Resolve, November 12th, Alpha Company packed up and left their patrol base. The company moved about 4 kilometers before they reached their final objective and the landing zone to be extracted. From there, Alpha Company was taken to Jalalabad. At the Civil Military Operational Center (CMOC), at Jalalabad, Alpha Com-



pany rested after their week-long, exhausting operation in the bone chilling Hindu Kush Mountains, the foothills of the Himalayas. There, the soldiers waited for transportation back to Bagram Air Field. While there, Staff Sgt. Paula Jennings of the 10th Military Police Company from Corpus Christi, TX said that this operation was unlike Operation Mountain Viper. She said the pace was faster, with more rugged terrain, and completely different weather.

"It's hard being one of the only females out here, but Triple Deuce treats all of the MP's with respect, and they make sure we have everything we need," said Jennings.

Upon Alpha Company's return to Bagram, LTC Joe Dichairo, commander of Triple Deuce from Fort Drum, NY, complimented his troops on how they handled themselves, despite the harsh conditions of the region.

"Their drive, endurance, and attitude is incredible! In my 17 years [in the Army], I have never seen anything like this. As long as they believe in themselves, equipment, and leaders they will overcome anything," said Dichairo.

In the end, the US military didn't suffer any combat related injuries or deaths. In an operation where over 1,000 servicemembers participated, there were only three non-combat injuries, which was "amazing," commented Dichairo. Several Anti-Coalition Militia members were detained, and the Specter gun ship eliminated several more.

LTC Dichairo stated that the operation was a success and that his troops are the ones to thank.

"I am in awe of all the soldiers. They are simply amazing to watch. I know that America is proud of them too. It's an honor to serve with them and lead them," stated Dichairo.

The soldiers of Triple Deuce can rest their weary heads with pride knowing that because of their efforts, a great number of Anti-Coalition Militia members will no longer continue their reign of terror on the region. And that is perhaps the greatest testament to their diligence and determination to protect us and our freedom.

Howard Stern predicts his broadcast demise

NEW YORK (AP) — Shock jock and selfproclaimed "King of All Media" Howard Stern believes his reign on the radio is coming to an end.

"The show is over," he announced Friday morning on his nationally syndicated radio program. "It's over."

It's not — at least not yet. But Stern predicted that a Federal Communications Communication crackdown on indecency on the airwaves will force his salacious show off the dial.

"I'm guessing that sometime next week will be my last show on this station," said Stern, adding that he expected the FCC to hit him with a whopping indecency fine. "There's a cultural war going on. The religious right is winning. We're losing."

A telephone call to Infinity Broadcasting, which syndicates Stern's show, was not returned Saturday to discuss Stern's comments.

On Friday, Stern devoted the first 2-andone-half hours of his show to his antici-



"I'm through. I'm a dead man walking," Stern said.

pated demise, a change of pace from the usual fare of naked women and toilet humor

Clear Channel Communications yanked Stern from stations in San Diego, Pittsburgh, Rochester, New York, Louisville, Kentucky, and Fort Lauderdale and Orlando, Florida on February 25. The company said the suspension would last until the Stern show met its programming guidelines.

"This time they have to fire me," Stern said. "I'm through. I'm a dead man walking."

On Thursday, Clear Channel paid a record \$755,000 fine levied last month by the FCC for indecent material aired by several of its stations.

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Troops increase presence at Afghanistan-Pakistan border

By Stephen Graham

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S.-led coalition troops have begun strengthening their presence in Afghanistan's lawless border regions in an attempt to crush Taliban and al-Qaida militants and garner intelligence on fugitives like Osama bin Laden, U.S. military officials said Tuesday.

The move to beef up the U.S. presence comes only weeks after the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. David Barno, pledged that troops would switch from brief missions in pursuit of enemy fighters to taking "ownership" of areas by having more regular contact with villages, sometimes for days at a time

"That process is under way and is gaining steam," military spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty told reporters during a news conference in the capital, Kabul.

The new show of force marks a change in tactics for the military, which had earlier deployed hundreds of troops in large formations for weeks at a time into remote mountainous areas. The new strategy has the advantage of attempting to build closer ties with the community, yielding better intelligence as well as giving troops more time to thoroughly screen an area. Now, locally based troops do "a long patrol, spend some time in villages and then come back to their main base, but then go back out to that village again," Hilferty said. "So we have repeated visits to places and we have better face-to-face and personal contact."

The new tactics have already met with some success, includ-

ing the destruction of a terrorist cell that had been plaguing American forces in the restive border region near Pakistan, said Lt. Col. Harry Glenn, the commander of a U.S. military base in the province of Khost.

One operation in January around a remote pass linking Khost with neighboring Paktia province had led to several arrests in a stronghold of Jalaluddin Haqqani, a fabled former Taliban commander.

"There has not been an attack in that pass since," Glenn told The Associated Press in an interview on Monday.

Haqqani apparently fled the area, he said.

The number of U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan has crept up to 13,000 over recent months, including up to 1,000 in Khost.

Barno has said that U.S. forces are planning to work closely with Pakistani troops on the other side of the border in what he described as a "hammer-and-anvil" approach — Pakistani troops will pressure the militants to cross into Afghanistan where American forces will be waiting.

Pakistani forces have poured into tribal areas bordering Afghanistan in hopes of pressuring fugitives to flee to Afghanistan — where American forces will be waiting.

U.S. officials say they expect these operations, plus the establishment of security teams in provincial capitals such as Qalat to encourage reconstruction projects and undermine support for militants threatening landmark summer elections.

BOAT from pg. 2

rooms, a nonprofit organization, capsized in the wind, according to Naval Reserve Center Commander Master Chief Melvin Johnson, who saw the accident.

"I saw the ferry coming down with the heavy gale-force winds, and the water following it. And it looked like it was going to overcome them," he said Saturday. "Basically it looked like the ferry tried to make a turn to get back into the upper end of the harbor, and the wind just took it, and it looked like it tilted, and then it completely capsized."

Johnson said reservists who also were witnesses immediately launched rescue boats, and other emergency personnel quickly joined them.

The water in Baltimore Harbor was 46 degrees at the time of the incident, cold enough to cause hypothermia, officials said. The accident happened about one mile southeast of historic Fort McHenry, in the Patapsco River at the mouth of Baltimore's larger Harbor.

Divers, rescue boats and helicopters searched for the missing people, while a boat towed the overturned pontoon boat toward shore about 90 minutes after the accident happened. Debris from the wreck was found two miles away, but Goodwin said the recovery effort was returning to closer to the site of the accident Sunday.

"We're going to put some divers in as close as we can pinpoint where the boat capsized," he said, "and start a grid search from there"

Goodwin also said they would use cadaver dogs and side-scan sonar in the search.

The chief would not release any information about the victims of the accident because notification had not been completed. He did say that some of the victims had come "from some distance away."

James Bond, president of Living Classrooms, which provides tours of the harbor, said there are enough life vests on the boats for each person on board, but passengers are not required to wear one.

Goodwin said that Seaport was not operating Sunday out of respect for the families of the victims.

"It was a tragedy for them too," he said.



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| | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Mar 08 | Mar 09 | Mar 10 | Mar 11 | Mar 12 | Mar 13 | Mar 14 |
| | Partly Sunny and warm | Partly Sunny and warm | Mostly Cloudy With Hazy Skies | Partly Cloudy With Dusty Skies | Thunder Storms and dust storm | After- noon wind and dust | DUST Afternoon wind and dus |
| | | | | | | | |
| HIGH | 90 | 86 | 81 | 80 | 79 | 75 | 74 |
| LOW | 52 | 54 | 50 | 48 | 48 | 43 | 42 |
| SUNRISE | 0157 | 0155 | 0154 | 0152 | 0150 | 0149 | 0148 |
| SUNSET | 1339 | 1340 | 1341 | 1342 | 1343 | 1343 | 1344 |

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